

# MESSENGER

**BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER** 

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: AUG 26 2017 (8/14 issue) SEPT 9 2017 (8/28 issue) Send submissions to Abby Rose at abby@piedmontchurch.org

Piedmont Community Church 400 Highland Avenue Piedmont, CA 94611 510-547-5700 VISIT PCC ONLINE: www.piedmontchurch.org

### Checking in with the Bhatti Family



The Bhatti family arrived at Oakland Airport in December 2015 from Pakistan after a 3 1/2 year stay in Thailand. During that time they were vetted and approved for legal refugee and immigration status by the United Nations International Refugee Committee and the United States State Department and the Department of Homeland Security.

It's been a challenging, yet exciting and fulfilling period for each member of the family. As a family they are thriving. Here is a brief update:

Pervais, the father, has been working as the lead chef at Halal Guys in San Francisco for the last 9 months. He passed the written driving exam and is practicing his driving so as to pass the practical driving exam. When not working he is focused on his ESL studies.

Anila, the mother, works at the Piedmont Recreation Center in the mornings and as a child care provider to a Piedmont family in the afternoon. She recently began studies at Merritt College for an Early Childhood Education certificate. This year long program should help her upgrade her employment prospects.

Oldest son, Oniel, has worked at the same transportation company for the last 1 1/2 years, and has received 2 promotions. He obtained his drivers license and wishes to become a policeman. He has joined the Piedmont Police Department's Explorers Program for young people wanting to pursue a law enforcement career. His favorite sport is cricket.

Middle son, Adeel, has worked in reception and administration at the Red Lion Hotel on Hegenburger for the last year. He has also obtained his drivers license, and wants to work in the hospitality industry. His favorite sport is also cricket.

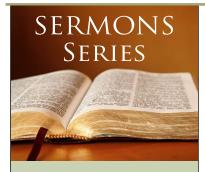
Youngest son, Samson, is thrilled to have been accepted to Piedmont Millenium High School. He has always wanted to pursue a law enforcement career, and has also joined the Piedmont Police Department's Explorer Program. His favorite sport is basketball.

The Bhattis are proud members of Piedmont Community Church and can often be seen helping with the various committees. They have applied for and should soon be receiving their Green Cards; and are saving so they can buy a house.

Bravo Pervais, Anila, Oniel, Adeel, and Samson!

Many thanks to every one at PCC and the Refugee Task Force who has helped make the Bhatti's dream of building a new life in America a reality.

David Schmidt, PCC Refugee Task Force



August 13, 2017
Prayer for Privileged People
Isaiah 1:10-17
Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn

August 20, 2017 Sleeping in on Sunday? Matthew 10: 40-42 Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn

August 27, 2017
Dr. Steve Main preaches

# MILESTONES



Nora Paige Havercamp was born on February 21, 2017. Congratulations to parents, Taylor Havercamp and

Carly Auerbacher.

Samuel Liam Post
was born on
July 19, 2017.
Congratulations to parents,
Erica Lum and Neal Post,
and grandparents Margaret
and Larry Lum.

#### Project Peace - August 19th, 9 am to noon



Mark your calendars for another Project
Peace Community Service Day! Project
Peace brings together local faith-based
organizations and non-profits to serve
our community. Please join together to
volunteer on Saturday, August 19, 9amNoon. Volunteer opportunities include
general maintenance and classroom
organization at Emerson Elementary
School, preparing school bulletin boards

at Piedmont Elementary School, general maintenance and gardening at Harbor House Oakland, and general cleaning and sorting clothes at YEAH - Berkeley (homeless shelter serving youth from 18-25 years).

Additional information and sign-ups will be available in the courtyard after services or contact Selma Chin at 510-290-5732 or selmachin@yahoo.com. For additional information about Project Peace Eastbay: www.projectpeaceeastbay.org.

#### **PCC Shared Interest Groups**

As you may know, PCC offers five Shared Interest Groups that meet periodically to pursue, well, interests that peoples share. There are groups for: Walking (led by Mary Heller), Theatre (Judy Wright), Dinner Club (Kristi Marcelle), Needles and Hooks (knitting and crafts, led by Sue Coffin), and Food Truck/Restaurant outings (Linda Rice). If you'd like to join in the activities of one of our groups, look for upcoming events in the Sunday bulletin, The Messenger and on our website: www.piedmontchurch.org. You can also contact the group leaders individually via PCC-Connect (linked to the website). In the fall, we'll be starting even more shared interest groups. So, if you have an idea for a group to start, please let Rev. Don Ashburn know this summer. You can reach him at: don@piedmontchurch.org, or 547-5700, ext. 105.

# **PCC's Chancel Choir Seeking New Auditions!**



The Chancel Choir is a central part of the music program at the church, singing services and concerts with instrumental ensembles throughout the program year. The Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights, and is always interested in potential new members for this

unique musical experience! If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Steve Main at 415-902-7495, or steve@stephenmain.com, to find out more and arrange a (user-friendly!) audition.

#### 2017-18 Children's Sunday School



For the coming Sunday school year we'll be Digging into the Bible in One Year! For the first quarter we'll be learning stories from Genesis, Exodus and Numbers. Some of these stories include: God Creates Adam and Eve (Genesis 1–2:24), God Tells Noah to Build an Ark (Genesis 6:9–9:17) and God Sends Miriam to Protect Moses (Exodus 2:1-10). The stories come with games and crafts to reinforce the message. Crafts include making dough to create something with a purpose (Adam and Eve), making jump ropes out of plastic bags (Noah's Ark, God gives us "do-overs"). I look forward

to Digging into the Bible in One Year! Questions? Contact Leslie Quantz: leslie@piedmontchurch.org.

### **Youth Program Dates**



August 15: School starts

**August 20: Sunday School starts** 

(during 10:30 am service)

August 22: Rock Pizza Lunch starts

August 23: **Livewire Kickoff** - new time:

2:30-3:30 pm, Wednesdays

August 27: Rock Kickoff

## Join Us in Welcoming Our Student Ministry Interns for This Coming School Year!

Jeremy Kaetzel will be returning for a second year as an intern for our student ministries and we are glad to have Katherine Vieira-Mendes returning after a couple of years to join him. They will be working actively with all the ministries we offer to students and building meaningful relationships with your Middle and High Schoolers. Katherine and her husband, Rodrigo, are seeking housing in or around Piedmont as well. If you know of or have any rental options for them please contact Scott Kail directly at 510-915-0393.







We are pleased to announce that Piedmont Community Church will be adding a Director of Communications & Marketing to our staff team. This new position will lead all communications and marketing efforts, advise staff and lay leadership, and collaborate with volunteers on boards, ministries, committees, teams, and the congregation to increase the visibility of PCC's rich programs and services in our community and beyond.

Please visit our website (under News & Upcoming Events) for a complete job description.



### **Summer Reading**

For most, summertime means rest and relaxation; maybe along with some travel and adventure and definitely, for me, lots of reading. So, as has become a tradition

here on the back page of The Messenger, here are some highlights of my reading list for the past couple of months.

First, Shot Through the Heart, by Mikal Gilmore. I can't recommend this book highly enough! The author is the youngest brother of Gary Gilmore, who was the first American executed since the reestablishment of the death penalty. You may remember Norman Mailer's book The Executioner's Song, which is gripping. But Shot Through the Heart tells the story through the eyes of a family member who is also a literary archaeologist, uncovering details of troubled relationships, the history of Mormonism, the corrupt and corrupting prison system and, of all things, Harry Houdini. It's an amazing journey.

Second, Michael Chabon's novel Moonglow. It's an uneven book, mainly by intent. Chabon's narrative style shifts back and forth in time, and between what appear to be fictional and factual events. The book centers on the relationship between (presumably) the author and his grandfather, with a scope that embraces rocketry, Jewish-American culture, World War II, meaning and myth, and an amazing cat you won't soon forget.

I read Jesus' Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed, by John Cobb, who is one of the premier theologians of the past 50 years, and the founder of the "process" school of theology. It's an engrossing book that will appeal to those who have an interest in the intersection of science, philosophy and religion.

I've read a few biographies, my favorite literary genre. One is A Man Called Destruction, about one of my rock and roll heroes, Alex Chilton, who went from superstardom with the Box Tops to relative obscurity; along the way influencing all sorts of artists, from REM to Nirvana to Wilco. I re-read my favorite book on prayer, Beginning to Pray, and in This Holy Man, learned about that book's author, Anthony Bloom, who served as the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church in Britain for many years. I'm going through an interesting and entertaining biography of Kierkegaard, by Steven Backhouse, and slowly relishing Trevor Noah's Born a Crime. So, what's on your list?

Peace and Happy Reading,

Don Ashburn



#### **Piedmont COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Office Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

**Summer Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9 am - 3 pm

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 19 - Project Peace Community Service Day

August 20 - Sunday School Starts

August 22 - Rock Pizza Lunch starts

August 23 - Livewire Kickoff - 2:30-3:30 pm

August 27 - Rock Kickoff

Sept. 2-4 - PCC Family Camp in Westminster Woods

September 10 - PCC Fall Picnic



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